



January 11, 2018

Mr. Carl Edlund, P.E.
Director, Superfund Division
US EPA Region VI
1445 Ross Ave., Ste. 1200
Dallas, TX 75202

Dear Mr. Edlund:

The Pueblo of Laguna (POL) herby accepts the invitation from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to hold a government to government consultation at the Pueblo of Laguna. The POL appreciates the opportunity to provide meaningful input concerning the San Mateo Creek Basin located in the Grants Mineral belt.

As you may be aware, the Pueblo of Laguna is one the tribes in the western United States that is impacted by abandoned uranium waste sites, both the Jackpile-Paguate mine, entirely contained within the Pueblo lands, and a variety of adjacent mines that have not been reclaimed to a safe state. Our primary concern, the Jackpile-Paguate Mine was, at one time, the largest open pit uranium mine in the world. Uranium in New Mexico is almost all in the "Grants mineral belt", which is along the southern boundary of the San Juan Basin in McKinley and Cibola counties, in the northwest part of the state.

The POL is pleased to hear that the San Mateo site may be selected for the National Priorities Listing (NPL) this year. The long term health impacts of this abandoned mine, and other nearby uranium sources are a major concern to the community and tribal government. This type of collaboration will be key in better understanding environmental toxicity levels and will assist in future decision making. It is our hope that this NPL designation will lead to thorough site investigation, inclusive remediation, and mitigation of current and future health risks.

Please coordinate proposed meeting dates and times with our Environmental and Natural Resources department staff. You may contact Mr. Adam Ringia, Director of ENRD at aringia@lagunapueblo-nsn.gov.

Sincerely,

PUEBLO OF LAGUNA

Virgil Siow
Governor

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